



SOS is the secret to an award winning pitch

This year's FA Groundsman of the Year has paid tribute to the Barenbrug BAR 50 SOS grass seed that helped him repair his club's pitch after the appalling winter, just in time for the competition's judging to take place.

Cambridge United FC's head groundsman Ian Darler won the Football Conference Award – which recognises and rewards groundsmanship at grassroots level – for the fifth time after impressing industry peers with the pitch's outstanding appearance and performance.

However, Ian says returning the pitch to an award-winning standard after the harsh winter was no mean feat. In fact, he says it wouldn't have been possible without the expert advice of his local turfcare supplier Collier Turf Care and area representative Stewart Jeff's recommendation he use Barenbrug's BAR 50 SOS.

"This is my 31st season at Cambridge United and I can honestly say that this winter was the worst I've experienced since the 80s," Ian reveals. "The pitch took such a hammering – we lost three games to the bad weather, but otherwise the club and Cambridge Regional College were playing here every Saturday, sometimes twice a week. I must have lost at least 20 percent of my grass cover

clearing snow, which resulted in a real loss in stability."

With Ian a regular BAR 7 customer, a routine Collier Turf Care visit from Stewart resulted in the recommendation he try BAR 50 SOS – Barenbrug's renowned cool soil temperature germination rapid repair mixture. "I looked into the low germination temperatures and thought it sounded too good to be true!" Ian continues. "But I decided to give it a go and was amazed by the results."

Harnessing a unique annual ryegrass bred by Barenbrug Research for its cool soil germination, and quick and superior establishment, BAR 50 SOS provided just the cover and stability Ian needed to get the pitch back to full match fitness – and wow the judges. "I overseeded in February and so it was back to looking its best in April when the judging took place. It without doubt gave us the grass cover and stability back – without that fresh injection of quality seed able to germinate in such low temperatures I don't think I'd have won the award."

For further information on BAR 50 SOS.

Visit www.bar50sos.co.uk



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SOS NEWS



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SOS answering distressed turf's call

Let's face it – maintaining decent pitch standards is a struggle for the country's grassroots football clubs. Limited budgets and a reliance on volunteer groundsmen invariably leaves playing surfaces in a poor state, regardless of the clubs' best efforts.

A Suffolk non-league club has, however, bucked the trend by making an investment in quality Barenbrug grass seed – and has since reaped the benefits of this relatively significant purchase.

Keen to improve the quality of its pitch in time for a major match, Stowmarket Town FC turned to a player's partner for advice. Delwyn Clark works for local turf specialist Spearhead Turf and was asked to recommend something to get the pitch match fit in time for a local legends game against Ipswich just four weeks away.

With turf deemed unsuitable within such a short renovation window, Delwyn recommended BAR 50 SOS. Local landscaper Paul Mumby was drafted in to perform the overseeding and, says Delwyn, the club hasn't looked back.

"Come the legends game, people couldn't believe how much grass cover there was," she reveals. "Previously, there were a lot of bare patches around the goal mouths and in the centre but they'd just disappeared. The pitch also played much better. The seed made a world of difference and we're hoping to use it again next year."

BAR 50 SOS - the story so far...

Since its introduction at the start of 2008, BAR 50 SOS has answered the distress call of many a greenkeeper and groundsman seeking year-round rapid turf repair.

From golfing greats and Premier League giants to sports clubs and local authorities, the success stories speak for themselves. But what's Barenbrug's verdict on this revolutionary product?

"BAR 50 SOS has achieved some fantastic results for customers since its introduction," research and development manager Jayne Leyland reveals. "Users have, of course, been particularly impressed by the mixture's capability to germinate in very low temperatures down to three degrees Centigrade. It's helped many a groundsman or greenkeeper out of a fix following freezing or adverse weather conditions – the surprise cold snap in spring 2011 really illustrated how it can help in very challenging conditions."

However, Jayne says there are additional opportunities offered by BAR 50 SOS which must not be missed. Some of the best results have been achieved through planned use rather than when making emergency repairs very late in the season. "Cool soil temperature germination is undoubtedly of real value" she continues. "But just because this mixture can produce impressive germination results when winter or unseasonably cold weather

Delwyn says that for a club of Stowmarket Town's size and spending power to invest in such high quality seed simply wouldn't have been possible without the support of the local community.

"Buying the Barenbrug seed was a huge step for Stowmarket Town FC. The investment is definitely making a difference, but, if it weren't for the help of all the volunteers involved and Spearhead's generosity in donating half the seed, we just wouldn't have been able to achieve such great results. As a non-league club, we feel very lucky to be playing on such a high quality pitch."

For further information on BAR 50 SOS

Visit www.bar50sos.co.uk



sets in, even more value can be gained by preparing and sowing earlier in the season to maximise the benefits of its very cool temperature growth. For example, using BAR 50 SOS for autumn repairs and renovations in September and October, rather than waiting until winter arrives, will ensure you achieve maximum establishment and superior ground cover. Once established, BAR 50 SOS will continue to grow throughout the winter months, which is when this characteristic is most needed for recovery".

"And there is more to BAR 50 SOS than cool temperature germination and growth. We have seen the product successfully used as a nursery crop, ensuring there is protective cover for a mixture to establish in stress conditions, including drought, whatever the species composition of the mixture. For stadiums and local authorities with very limited end of season renovation windows (as little as two or three weeks) it even outperforms perennial ryegrass blends for germination and establishment even in warm soil temperatures.

"In conclusion, while it's wonderful BAR 50 SOS is renowned for achieving miraculous results in the depths of winter and/or when time is of the essence, I'd recommend turf professionals follow our year-round advice for its use to maximise the opportunities and results you can achieve from using this terrific product."

The secret behind



How it works

Central to BAR 50 SOS' success is the inclusion of 4IR-1 annual ryegrass (*Lolium multiflorum*), which has been specifically bred by Barenbrug Research for its quick and superior establishment, cool soil temperature germination and amenity turf characteristics. In trials 4IR-1 germinated in temperatures as low as three degrees centigrade and so provides exciting possibilities for repairing an array of amenity surfaces regardless of playing season patterns or climate conditions. 4IR-1 also boasts a tufted annual growth habit, with mid-green leaf colour and a general appearance similar to the broader-leafed perennial ryegrass amenity cultivars.

Proven performance

A series of temperature germination trials and Growing Degree Day (GDD) studies established the germination and establishment characteristics of BAR 50 SOS when compared to perennial ryegrasses prior to its commercial launch. These trials and studies have confirmed the extreme cool soil temperature capability of SOS.

For more information, view the SOS Technical leaflet - available on the website, www.bar50sos.co.uk

Football, rugby, racecourses, golf and sports pitches

Remarkable overseeding ryegrass blend providing superior germination and establishment in very cool soil temperatures for year-round sward cover, with excellent performance across all types of grass surfaces.

- Provides faster germination and establishment than a 100 percent perennial ryegrass blend
- Germinates at cool soil temperatures down to 3.5°C for winter repairs
- Excellent wear tolerance

Applications

Football, rugby and sports pitches

- Mid-season (winter) repairs for sports pitches
- Summer renovation of sports pitches with extremely limited establishment windows

Golf

- Late autumn, winter and early spring divotting and reinstatement of tees, fairway bottlenecks and walkways

Racecourses

- Transition renovation and divotting

Benefits

- Germinates at cool soil temperatures down to 3.5°C for sustaining winter pitch cover
- Rapid establishment at cooler soil temperatures for fast recovery from damage
- Provides faster germination and establishment than a 100 percent perennial ryegrass blend in all temperatures
- Excellent wear tolerance
- Rapid soil stabilisation

In the bag

4IR-1	Annual ryegrass	50%
Bardorado	Perennial ryegrass	50%

Sowing rate	30-45g per m ²	Oversowing rate	20-40g per m ²
Sowing depth	4-8mm	Mowing height	down to 12mm